IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the present listing of claims with the following:

1. (currently amended) A two-way satellite communication system including a terminal having a receiver unit and a transmitter unit, the terminal being configured to transmit and receive signals to and from a hub via a satellite, the system comprising:

a terminal interface configured to permit exchange of data between the receiver unit and the transmitter unit, wherein the receiver unit is configured to translate data received from a host to a data frame that conforms to a predetermined protocol format that is supported by the hub;

a <u>burst channel</u> demodulator interface coupled to an antenna associated with the terminal and configured to permit exchange of the data frame between the terminal and the satellite, the data frame conforming with [[a]] <u>different</u> return channel frame <s>format</s> <u>formats</u>;

a satellite-to-hub interface configured to permit receipt of the data frame at the hub from the satellite, the hub being configured to modify the data frame for transmission to an external packet switched network; and

a hub-to-terminal interface configured to support the exchange of data from the hub to the terminal using a multi-layer protocol.


2. (original) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a host interface configured to support transmission of data bursts from the terminal to the host, the data bursts conforming with a bus standard of the host.


3. (original) The system according to claim 2, wherein the bus standard is Universal Serial Bus (USB).


4. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the multi-layer protocol supports a digital video broadcast (DVB) stream.

5. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the data that is exchanged by the terminal interface conforms with an Internet Protocol (IP) protocol.

6. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the return channel format exhibits at least one of a little endian orientation and a big endian orientation.

7. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the hub transmits inroute group definition (IGD) packets to the terminal, each of the IGD packets specifying return channels and traffic loading information.

8. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the packet switched network is an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

9. (currently amended) A method for supporting two-way communication over a satellite system that includes a terminal having a receiver unit and a transmitter unit, the terminal being configured to transmit and receive signals to and from a hub via a satellite, the method comprising:

interfacing the receiver unit with the transmitter unit to permit exchange of data, wherein the receiver unit is configured to translate data received from a host to a data frame that conforms to a predetermined protocol format that is supported by the hub;

interfacing the terminal with the satellite to permit exchange of the data frame, the data frame conforming with [[a]] different return channel frame format formats;

interfacing the satellite with the hub to transmit the data frame to the hub from the satellite, the hub being configured to modify the data frame for transmission to an external packet switched network; and

interfacing the hub to the terminal to support the exchange of data from the hub to the terminal using a multi-layer protocol.

10. (original) The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

interfacing the terminal with the host to support transmission of data bursts from the terminal to the host, the data bursts conforming with a bus standard of the host.

11. (original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the bus standard in the step of interfacing the terminal with the host is Universal Serial Bus (USB).

12. (original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the multi-layer protocol in the step of interfacing the hub to the terminal supports a digital video broadcast (DVB) stream.

13. (original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the data in the step of interfacing the receiver unit with the transmitter unit conforms with ah Internet Protocol (IP) protocol.

14. (original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the return channel format in the step of interfacing the terminal with the satellite exhibits at least one of a little endian orientation and a big endian orientation.

15. (original) The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

transmitting inroute group definition (IGD) packets by the hub to the terminal, each of the IGD packets specifying return channels and traffic loading information.

16. (original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the packet switched network in the step of interfacing the satellite with the hub is an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

17. (currently amended) A two-way satellite communication system including a terminal having a receiver unit and a transmitter unit, the terminal being configured to transmit and receive signals to and from a hub via a satellite, comprising:

means for interfacing the receiver unit with the transmitter unit to permit exchange of data, wherein the receiver unit is configured to translate data received from a host to a data frame that conforms to a predetermined protocol format that is supported by the hub;

means for interfacing the terminal with the satellite to permit exchange of the data frame, the data frame conforming with [[a]] different return channel frame format formats;

means for interfacing the satellite with the hub to transmit the data frame to the hub from the satellite, the hub being configured to modify the data frame for transmission to an external packet switched network; and

means for interfacing the hub to the terminal to support the exchange of data from the hub to the terminal using a multi-layer protocol.

18. (original) The system according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for interfacing the terminal with the host to support transmission of data bursts from the terminal to the host, the data bursts conforming with a bus standard of the host.

19. (original) The system according to claim 18, wherein the bus standard is Universal Serial Bus (USB).

20. (original) The system according to claim 17, wherein the multi-layer protocol supports a digital video broadcast (DVB) stream.

21. (original) The system according to claim 17, wherein the data conforms with an Internet Protocol (IP) protocol.

22. (original) The system according to claim 17, wherein the return channel format exhibits at least one of a little endian orientation and a big endian orientation.

23. (original) The system according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for transmitting inroute group definition (IGD) packets by the hub to the terminal, each of the IGD packets specifying return channels and traffic loading information.

24. (original) The system according to claim 17, wherein the packet switched network is an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

25. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for supporting two-way communication over a satellite system that includes a terminal having a receiver unit and a transmitter unit, the terminal being configured to transmit and receive signals to and from a hub via a satellite, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

interfacing the receiver unit with the transmitter unit to permit exchange of data, wherein the receiver unit is configured to translate data received from a host to a data frame that conforms to a predetermined protocol format that is supported by the hub;

interfacing the terminal with the satellite to permit exchange of the data frame, the data frame conforming with [[a]] different return channel frame format formats;

interfacing the satellite with the hub to transmit the data frame to the hub from the satellite, the hub being configured to modify the data frame for transmission to an external packet switched network; and

interfacing the hub to the terminal to support the exchange of data from the hub to the terminal using a multi-layer protocol.

26. (original)  The computer readable-medium according to claim 25, wherein the one or more processors further perform the step of:

interfacing the terminal with the host to support transmission of data bursts from the terminal to the host, the data bursts conforming with a bus standard of the host.

27. (original)  The computer readable-medium according to claim 26, wherein the bus standard in the step of interfacing the terminal with the host is Universal Serial Bus (USB).

28. (original)  The computer readable-medium according to claim 25, wherein the multi-layer protocol in the step of interfacing the hub to the terminal supports a digital video broadcast (DVB) stream.

29. (original)  The computer readable-medium according to claim 25, wherein the data in the step of interfacing the receiver unit with the transmitter unit conforms with an Internet Protocol (IP) protocol.

30. (original)  The computer readable-medium according to claim 25, wherein the return channel format in the step of interfacing the terminal with the satellite exhibits at least one of a little endian orientation and a big endian orientation.

31. (original)  The computer readable-medium according to claim 25, wherein the one or more processors further perform the step of:

transmitting inroute group definition (IGD) packets by the hub to the terminal, each of the IGD packets specifying return channels and traffic loading information.

32. (original)  The computer readable-medium according to claim 25, wherein the packet switched network in the step of interfacing the satellite with the hub is an Internet Protocol (IP) network.